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Demonstrators take aim at Short Hills hunt

KARENA WALTER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Protesters and supporters of the deer hunt at Short Hills Provincial Park met hunters as they exited the park on Saturday in St. Catharines. See story on page 2.

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UPFRONT

■ SHORT HILLS PROVINCIAL PARK

Deer hunt draws demonstrators on both sides

KARENA WALTER
Postmedia Network

Demonstrators for and against a deer hunt in Short Hills Provincial Park gathered at an exit Saturday night as hunters left the grounds for the first of six days.

Holding signs in the cold that said, "Keep Short Hills Safe: No hunting" and "Treaty rights are human rights," about 40 people gathered in the cold at the Effingham Street entrance to the park, where members of the Haudenosaunee Aboriginal community had hunted from dawn to dusk.

The Ministry of Natural Resources closed the park on Saturday and Sunday for the hunt, which is also taking place Nov. 19, 20, 28 and 29.

It's the fourth time since 2013 the Haudenosaunee have exercised their aboriginal and treaty rights to harvest deer in the park with bows and arrows.

Protesters have gathered each and every time as the hunters arrive and depart.

"Until the safety is addressed we will keep coming here every year, every day, no matter how early it is and how late it is," said St. Catharines resident Sheila Krekorian, who said there are 100 residential homes backing onto the popular park. "This is our community. We deserve for it to be safe.

"This is not an issue of who is hunting. It's an issue of where they are hunting. They are hunting in an urban area and it's not safe to do so."

Robin Zavitz, a member of the Short Hills Wildlife Alliance, said she counted 90 hunters entering the park Saturday morning, a sharp increase from 15 at the first hunt in January 2013.

PHOTOS BY KARENA WALTER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Protesters and supporters of the deer hunt at Short Hills Provincial Park met hunters as they exited the park Saturday in St. Catharines.

Zavitz said it's physically impossible to contain the 1,700-acre park. She watched eight cars get turned away from the Effingham Street entrance Saturday morning, but wondered what would happen to the people who pull up to the side of the woods and go in, as some regularly do.

"This is such a porous park and you can get into it from anywhere," she said.

"It really feel this is not the place to do this."

Niagara Region sent a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources in 2014 asking it not to allow future hunts, citing concerns about public safety. The Region has also written letters in the past to the premier and minister stating opposition to hunting in the 1,700-acre park.

But the ministry has said in a statement that it "recognizes and seeks to balance the interests of the different users of the park" and the rights of the Haudenosaunee to conduct a traditional deer harvest.

Ministry officials could be seen parked in trucks at various locations around the park during the day to remind the public it was closed. It also established a hunt zone within the park.

For supporters of the hunt gathered Saturday night, the treaty rights speak volumes.

Jodie Lynn Harrison of St. Catharines said protesters can't say they support Haudenosaunee treaty rights, just not at Short Hills.

"They're the people who are not in my backyard, right? We don't mind if you hunt, we don't mind if you have your way of life, but just don't do it here. And that's really ironic. That shows a lack of understanding of our own colonial history."

Harrison said the conversation about the hunt can't take place without talking about reconciliation, food sovereignty and who has access to land and resources.

"To block people having access to this land and these resources for six days a year? That's not about an equitable relationship, that's not about sharing."

Celeste Smith of Niagara Falls, who was born Six Nations, said there are shrinking areas because of urban sprawl and less places to hunt.

"It's really important our traditions are kept alive and part of that is deer hunting. As we know, space is very limited. There are areas where we can hunt and this is one of them."

She said families were going into the park and sons were being taught the traditional ways of hunting by their fathers.

"If not here, where?" Smith asked. "If we are to carry on those traditions and that traditional way of life, which we absolutely have a right to, then there's going to have to be some compromise."

But St. Catharines resident Jeremy Spera, who comes to the park at least three times a week to hike with his dogs, said deer in the park should be able to exist free from being hunted or killed by any person.

"I think it's important that deer have a place of refuge and a sanctuary which, after all, is what a provincial park is. This flies in the face of any ideas of preservation or conservation."

Protesters against the hunt delayed the hunters' trucks for five-minute intervals Saturday night, allowing two trucks to leave the park at a time. They estimated there were 35 trucks altogether.

Niagara Regional Police, who were on scene with Ontario Provincial Police, said there were no problems.

Previous hunts and demonstrations have taken place over four days in January 2013, eight days in November 2013 and six days in November and December 2014.

karena.walter@sunmedia.ca

LOCALNEWS

■ **ARTS:** Join writers during NaNoWriMo

Pelham library has a novel idea

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

November is National Novel Writing Month, also known as NaNoWriMo.

NaNoWriMo is a non-profit organization that aims to inspire people to write. Participants sign up to be part of a worldwide writing commitment. The goal for each person is to write 50,000 words in one month.

In 2014 there were 325,142 participants. Almost 1,000 libraries, book stores and community centres worldwide opened their doors to writers.

Pelham Public Library staff decided to join by creating a refuge for writers.

"I just made it one of my goals this year to try to find a way to support those writers," Elaine Anderson, the library's public services co-ordinator, said.

Every Monday during November writers are invited to take advantage of the quiet space, which is set up with desks and chairs. On Mondays a section of the library is dedicated for writers, with refreshments available.

Anderson said although the snacks are provided on Mondays, she encourages writers to come to the library whenever they can.

The library put on writing workshops before NaNoWriMo for people to improve their writing ability. Anderson said tips for time management were given to get people committed and stay motivated.

Anderson said the idea for a writing refuge space came up because the library has an open area for people to use. She said the library wanted to provide a place people could go that was away from distractions.

"It's safe and quiet, like your living room, but not. The housework is left behind and the kids aren't here," she said with a laugh.

MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Elaine Anderson, public services co-ordinator at the Pelham Public Library, uses a laptop in the writing refuge corner. Mondays the library provides refreshments and a quiet place to write as part National Novel Writing Month.

IN BRIEF

Prelim set in crash that killed Fonthill man

A preliminary hearing in the case of a 25-year-old Hamilton man, charged in connection with a crash in West Lincoln last May that claimed the life of a Fonthill man, will be held next year.

Benjamin Klunder made a brief appearance in an Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines last Thursday where he agreed to have his matter adjourned until April.

Klunder is charged with criminal negligence causing death and failing to stop at the scene of an accident resulting in death in connection with a May 14 collision involving a tractor pulling an agriculture seeder and a vehicle driven by a 55-year-old Fonthill man.

The collision, which occurred on Regional Rd. 65, also known as Silver Street, claimed the life of Randall Moore.

The tractor was later located at a Smithville farm and the driver was arrested.

Assistant Crown attorney Richard Monette said the defendant will elect whether he wants to be tried by a judge alone or a jury when he returns to court April 26.

A preliminary hearing is held to determine if there's enough evidence to proceed to trial.

The hearing is expected to last three days.

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How should we spend your money in 2016?

DAVE AUGUSTYN
For Postmedia Network

Do you have any suggestions on how the town should spend your money?

Council will begin our 2016 budget process with a special public meeting where we listen to you and other members of the community about what you would like to see in next year's and future budgets. That meeting will occur on Monday, Nov. 30, at 6:30 p.m. in the Ccouncil Chamber at Pelham Town Hall.

While Pelham Ccouncil first started this type of a "pre-budget consultation" for the 2007 budgets, we continue each year to welcome residents, representatives of sports teams and service clubs, businesses and property taxpayers to provide input.

I am pleased that, following council deliberations each year, we have been able to follow through on most of the suggestions offered by your friends and neighbours. In previous year, folks have requested a dog park, a skate park, sidewalks along a number of roads, crosswalks, sidewalk snow clearing on every sidewalk in town, partnerships on service club signs, and a girl's change room in the arena. The town has completed each of these requests or they have been approved and will get done soon.

That's why we are undertaking this consultation process again. council and I want to hear directly from you about your needs, wants, and ideas for our town. Our community improves when more and more people become involved in its success.

And, this is just the start of our 2016 budget deliberations:

- Pre-budget consultation – beginning Nov. 30;
- Draft capital budget available to public – Dec. 31;
- Draft capital budget presented to committee – Jan. 4;
- Council consider approving capital budget – Jan. 11;
- Draft operating budget available to the public – Feb. 5;
- Draft operating budget presented to committee – Feb. 8;
- Council consider approving operating budget – Feb. 16;
- Draft water and sewer budgets available to the public – Feb. 8;
- Draft water and sewer budgets presented to committee – Feb. 16;
- Council consider approving water and sewer budgets – March 7.

Prefer to provide written input? Simply send a letter via e-mail to a special e-mail address: ourbudget@pelham.ca. You will also soon be able to view background budget information at the town's website: www.pelham.ca.

Not internet savvy? You can also provide written comments via normal mail c/o Town Clerk, Town of Pelham, 20 Pelham Town Square, P.O. Box 400, Fonthill, Ont., L0S 1E0.

I hope to hear from you and I look forward to discussing your ideas so that we can continue to build a better future for our town together.

You may contact Mayor Dave at mayordave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.ca.

Shipwrecks – Temblador

HANDOUT/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Temblador is pictured in the Eisenhower Lock, on Oct. 18, 1960, in this photo by Dan McCormick courtesy of the Brockville Museum Collection.

SKIP GILLHAM
For Postmedia Network

The tanker *Temblador* was built at Duluth in 1943 and left the Great Lakes via the Mississippi River system to work in and around Venezuela.

There, the shallow draft of the vessel was useful carrying crude oil from docks on Lake Maricaibo to Aruba.

This work ended in 1960 and *Temblador* returned to the Great Lakes for Porter Shipping. It mainly operated out of Montreal and was renamed *Liquilassie* in 1961. The latter traded throughout the Great Lakes until the end of the 1975 season.

It was converted to a barge at Hamilton in 1977 and returned to work in 1979 carrying a variety of petroleum products. *Liquilassie* came down the Welland Canal for the last time in November 1980 carrying a cargo of asphalt and was bound for Florida for the winter.

On Feb. 6, 1981, the ship struck the Gandy Bridge at Tampa, damaging the structure and the barge resulting in the closure of the bridge for three months. *Liquilassie* was idle much of 1981 but the following spring loaded liquid fertilizer for Tahiti.

The ship spent its final years in the South Pacific. Its tanks were cleaned in 1987 and the former lakes trader was sunk as an artificial reef at Tonga.

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■ REMEMBRANCE DAY

Pelham pays tribute to Canada's veterans

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

The town of Pelham came together to remember those people who have fought bravely for Canada.

Veterans from the Second World War, Korean War, Afghanistan and United Nations peacekeepers attended a ceremony Nov. 11 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613 in Fonthill.

Poppy campaign chairman and cadet instructors cadre Leo Giovenazzo said there were about 500 people at the ceremony. In the past he said there have been almost 1,000 people in attendance.

"I think today it is important to remember our fallen comrades that have done so much for our country and allow us to have the opportunities that we have today," Giovenazzo said.

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn spoke to the large crowd saying "today we remember these brave men and women who have served and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace."

"We honour them for their courage, their commitment and their devotion for standing on guard for Canada."

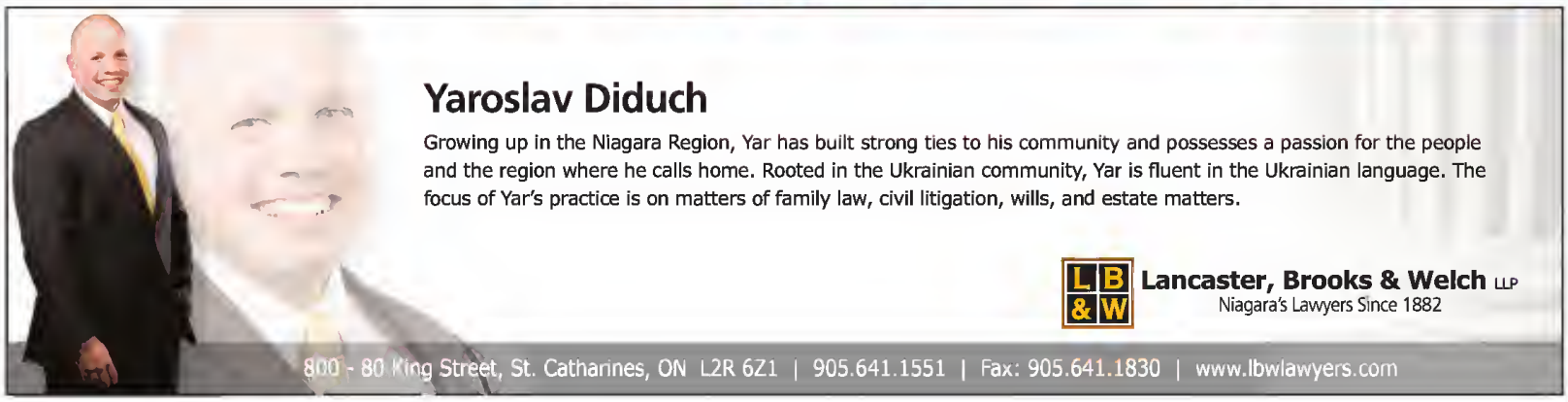
Veterans Park at the legion hall is paved with stones. On many of the stones are the names of veterans engraved on them.

As Augustyn looked down at the stones he said "may their memories also be engraved on our minds and on our hearts."

Government, Niagara Regional Police, emergency medical services, organizations and local businesses each had representatives at the ceremony. They laid wreaths around a monument that reads: We will remember them, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613, 1987."

As *Last Post* was played by a single trumpeter, the crowd looked up at the waving Canadian flag. Once the last note had been played a large V formation of Canada geese flew overhead. Everyone looked up and smiled. A few people turned to one another laughing and said "that was well planned," "I wonder where they got the geese from."

MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK
Veteran Emery Doucette speaks to people attending the Pelham Remembrance Day ceremony at Veterans Park at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613. Doucette was part of the Royal 22nd regiment and served in Korea.



BUDGET: Levy differential of $427,469 will be put in reserves

Extra NPCA fee remains for 2016

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

Concerned councillors could not sway a majority vote in a fight against an extra charge contained within the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority budget.

Niagara Region will continue to pay the $427,469 levy differential identified during last year's budget deliberations, when the NPCA began applying a provincially-legislated formula.

That formula, used by other conservation authorities in the province, sees levies apportioned based on the number of its taxpayers who live in the watershed.

It was to decrease Niagara's share of the $8.8 million budget by $427,469. That differential was set aside in a reserve by the NPCA in 2015 and has again been included in the 2016 budget.

City of Hamilton, which was levied $1.3 million compared to its $513,000 paid in 2014, appealed the apportionment to the Ontario Mining and Lands Commissioner. The issue has yet to be resolved.

The Region has not received its initial $427,469 back and St. Catharines Coun. Brian Heit feared that trend will continue after the reserve grows to close to $855,000 in 2016.

He asked during last Thursday's council meeting that the Region initiate the appeal process against the apportionment. There is only a 30-day window to appeal to the Mining and Lands Commissioner.

Grimsby Coun. Tony Quirk, who sits on the NPCA board, said the Region had an opportunity to renegotiate the agreement last year, but opted to move forward with the provincial formula instead.

He called it "asinine" to approve a formula and then to turn around and appeal it.

If Hamilton is successful in its appeal, that differential will prevent the NPCA from having to come back to council to ask for additional funds, Quirk said, adding the money should be kept in reserves until the matter is resolved.

"This money is not coming back to Niagara Region. It's either coming back to the taxpayers of Niagara Region or being invested into the assets the NPCA has."

That decision will be at the discretion of the NPCA board.

Mediation for the Hamilton appeal is tentatively set for Dec. 11.

Lincoln Coun. Bill Hodgson, who also sits on the NPCA board, felt the $427,469 should not continue to be levied.

He urged council to consider the assistance those funds could offer if not collected by the NPCA. It would cover two-thirds of the more than $600,000 budget increase request recently denied by the budget review committee to Niagara Regional Housing, he said.

Hodgson felt leaving the charge in the budget would send a message to the mediator in Hamilton's appeal that Niagara is OK with continuing to pay up. It will be difficult, he said, for the Region to make a case that the former apportionment is unfair when the full amount continues to be levied.

"How do we make our case if we're still collecting it?"

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn felt an appeal would send a "clear message" to parties in the watershed and the arbitrator that "enough is enough" and "for too long Niagara has been paying too much."

He credited NPCA administration for coming forward with a solution last year after discovering Niagara had been overpaying, but said that correct apportionment now needs to be applied. To not appeal is "essentially saying it's not important to us."

Niagara Falls Coun. Bart Maves felt it would be clear to the mediator that Niagara supports the provincial formula, which has been noted in public record on numerous occasions.

Once mediation wraps, Maves believes "there should be some sort of windfall for our ratepayers," but he doesn't think that will come as the result of an appeal.

"I want to see that happen, but I don't believe (an appeal) does it."

The amendment to appeal was lost in a 16-8 vote.

Not ready to give up the fight, Hodgson then put forth an amendment requesting that the NPCA no longer collect the $427,469 for 2016.

That amendment resulted in a tied 11-11 vote and was defeated by chairman Alan Caslin.

The NPCA budget was received in a 15-9 vote.

COURTS

Man acquitted of impaired driving

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

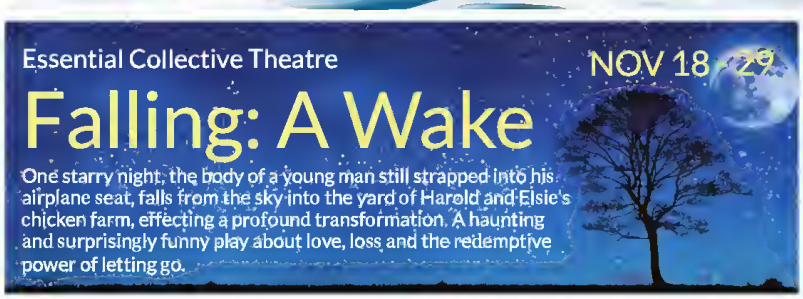
A man who had almost three times the legal limit of alcohol in his system escaped a drunk driving conviction after a judge ruled the motorist couldn't have been "in care and control" of a vehicle if he had no intention of driving it.

While the man was highly intoxicated, Judge Ken Lenz ruled Richard Sills was a danger to no one but himself.

"His intention was to get drunk until it killed the pain and then walk home, perhaps after he sobered up," the judge said last Tuesday in an Ontario Court in St. Catharines before acquitting Richard Sills on charges of impaired driving and having care and control of a motor vehicle with an excessive blood-alcohol level.

"There was no realistic risk the defendant would have changed his mind about walking as opposed to driving."

Sills, 35, of West Lincoln, was sitting in his truck in a church parking lot on April 30 when he was approached by Niagara Regional Police.



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Tuesday, November 24	7:00 – 8:00 pm
Wednesday, November 25	7:30 – 8:30 pm
Thursday, November 26	10:00-11:00 am

Walking Club - Everyone Welcome!

Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandshell from 9-10:30 am. For more information, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

Community Workshop: Ontario Culture Strategy

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6:30pm
Old Pelham Town Hall
491 Canboro Road, Ridgeville

Help Shape Ontario's First Culture Strategy
For more information contact jhendriks@pelham.ca or 905-892-2607 ext. 341

Arena Programs

Public Skating	Adult Public Skating	Adult/ Preschool	Men's Shinny Hockey	Women's Shinny Hockey	Women's Learn to Play Hockey	Pelham Panthers- Home Games
Sunday Nov 22 1:00-2:20 pm **Tuesday Nov 24** 7:30-8:30 pm **Friday Nov 27** 3:30-4:30 pm	**Thursday, Nov 26** 1:00-2:00 pm	**Tuesday, Nov 24** 1:00-2:00 pm **Friday, Nov 27** 10:00-11:00 am	**Tuesday, Nov 24** 8:00-9:00 am **Friday, Nov 27** 9:00-10:00 am	**Monday Nov 23** 9:30-10:45 am **Thursday Nov 26** 10:30-11:45 am	**Thursday, Nov 26** 9:30-10:30 am **Hockey Skills Hour** **Monday, Nov 23** 11:00-12:00 pm **Thursday, Nov 26** 2:00-3:00 pm	**Friday, Nov 27** 7:30 pm vs. Fort Erie **Tuesday, Dec 1** 7:00 pm vs. Niagara Falls

Pelham NIAGARA

CALL FOR MEMBERS – TOWN COMMITTEES

The Town of Pelham is seeking interested individuals to join the:

- Summerfest Committee
- Pelham Library Board
- Community Beautification Committee (formerly the Communities in Bloom Committee)

Visit pelham.ca for application details and to apply by Monday, November 30, 2015.

For more information, please contact the Town Clerk at NJBozzato@pelham.ca or (905) 892-2807 ext. 315.

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Hosted by Pelham Seniors' Advisory Committee

Wednesday, November 25, 2015 @ 10am-3pm
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CHRISTMAS IN PELHAM

November 4, 2015 – January 3, 2016

Get ready for the holidays. Check out these great upcoming events around Town and watch for more next week!

November 24 (10am-12:30pm): Holiday Cardmaking – Pelham Public Library (Fonthill)

CALL FOR VENDORS:

December 4 (4pm to 10pm): Outdoor Christmas Market (Under the Fonthill Arches)
Be part of Pelham's signature winter event! Applications available at pelham.ca and at Pelham Town Hall.

Visit pelham.ca/christmas-in-pelham for details.

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Residents are invited to participate in our upcoming open house to provide input for the 2016 Town of Pelham capital and operating budgets.

Monday, November 30, 2015 @ 6:30 pm
Pelham Council Chambers at Town Hall (20 Pelham Town Square in Fonthill)

Can't make it to the open house?
Send us your suggestions to ourbudget@pelham.ca

For more information, visit pelham.ca

Santa Claus Parade

Pelham's 18th Annual Santa Claus Parade
Saturday, December 12, 2015.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS!
Visit pelham.ca for details!

Call for Nominations
Pelham NIAGARA **Christmas Lights Tour**
Deadline: Saturday, December 5, 2015

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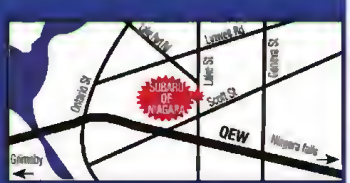

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■ TRANSPORTATION

'A great way to make some extra cash'

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia Network

As Uber launches in Niagara, MPP Tim Hudak says he wants to help create an environment where emerging technologies and traditional taxi companies can compete for business.

"I get it. When you've got the market, it's not easy when a new competitor comes to town, so I know there's some politicians that will oppose Uber and say we've got to protect the cab industry," said Hudak, who took the first official ride in Niagara Thursday. He held a press conference near Table Rock in Niagara Falls, where he was dropped off.

"I don't look at it that way. I say what's good for residents in Niagara, so let's give them a choice. (Uber is) a convenient choice because you just hit your smart screen, you can have a car, you can see who the driver is, where they are, when they're arriving, all of that ahead of time. That's a great innovation.

"It allows people to make a little extra money from something they already own, like their car."

Last Thursday morning, UberX — a ride-sharing program arranged through a smartphone app — launched in Niagara, Kingston and Windsor.

Uber officials say their drivers are provincially licensed and use their own vehicles to give passengers a ride.

Uber said the first two rides will be free for new riders until Sunday.

Drivers were available as of 3 p.m., Thursday.

St. Catharines resident Justin Burrows was Hudak's Uber driver.

"Justin works at the Apple store, and he does this in his spare time," said Hudak. "And he told me, 'Look, the rent has got to get paid, and it's extra money that I can use to pay down the rent and put away in some savings.'"

Burrows said he has been an Uber driver for more than a year, starting in Toronto, then Hamilton and now Niagara.

"It's a great way to make some extra cash. I have a car, when I'm not working elsewhere, it's sitting in the driveway not making any money for me, so I can make some money on something I already own," he said.

"I'm a big fan of Uber. I'm a big fan of the actual company and the app, and I've been following it well before it came to Canada, and I'm excited for it to be here.

"I think it's revolutionary, I think it's something that everybody can embrace, and it's going to be kind of the new wave of the future."

Burrows said he's licensed as an independent contractor and is "responsible for how well I do as a business.

"Uber just gets me the client," he said.

Uber Canada spokeswoman Susie Heath said they are "thrilled" to be in Niagara, "which will give people access to safe and reliable rides just as in over 350 communities worldwide, including over 40 in Ontario."

"By providing a service that responds to the needs of today's riders and drivers, we are helping advance the way people and cities move, and are on track to create more than 500 driver-partner jobs across these communities."

Heath said she doesn't know how many Uber drivers there are in Niagara.

"We heard from hundreds of riders and drivers who wanted to see Uber in the Niagara region and we're really pleased to be here," she said.

"The arrival of UberX means that residents and visitors alike now have access to a safe, reliable and affordable way to get around at the touch of a button."

In October, Hudak put forward a private member's bill calling for Ontario-wide regulations for services such as Uber. It's in committee for further study.

Hudak said his bill is about "empowering average people just to make a few extra dollars."

"We already know here in Niagara, it's tough to get a good job, pay is pretty stagnant, the bills are going up," he said, adding his bill would legalize Uber's service.

Uber has come under fire by taxi companies across the world, including in Niagara.

The taxi industry has called for a level playing field, saying it has to follow strict regulations, and have invested a lot of money to comply with existing laws.

"A lot of cab drivers are hustling, (and it's) awfully difficult to make a few dollars there, too," said Hudak.

"I wrote to (Niagara) Regional Chair (Alan) Caslin and I said, 'You know what, why don't we work together on modernizing the cab regulations, support my bill, I think it will be a win-win for everybody involved."

Hudak said cabs have been regulated since 1635.

"A lot of red tape builds up over the years. Let's clear aside that red tape, and allow the cabs to compete.

"When I see what consumers are doing now, there's over a million Uber rides a month in the province of Ontario. That's going to go up now that we have it here at home in Niagara. That tells me that we have to change the laws to allow consumers to continue with this choice. My bill actually makes sure there's proper consumer protection in place. It mandates insurance, that drivers have clean driving records, criminal background checks, all of that. I think it's very important as the exchange for getting a licence.

Continued on next page

■ TRANSPORTATION

'A great way to make some extra cash'

From previous page

"But I believe ... you're going to see a market where people can choose a number of options. They can drive themselves, they can get a ride through Uber and ride sharing, maybe a cab, maybe transit. I think people are going to demand more services down the road."

Uber officials said regulatory burdens in the traditional taxi model — such as requiring dome lights on the roof — don't make sense for the Uber model. Uber doesn't pick up street hails or occupy taxi stands.

Company officials said they want to be regulated, but in a way that recognizes the differences with ride sharing.

Burrows said out of more than the 1,500 trips he's done with Uber, he can "count on one hand" how times he has felt uncomfortable with a passenger.

"And even then, I dropped them off at a location, Uber protects me, so they don't know who I am after that. They don't know my number, they don't know where I live, they don't know anything about that," he said.

"Once they're out of my car, and the fare is over, our conversations are done, so if there is ever a situation where I am uncomfortable or unsafe, I know that once they're out of my vehicle, our time together is done."

■ BYLAWS

Operators could face $350 fines if they're not fully licensed

TONY RICCIUTO
Postmedia Network

Drivers who transport passengers for a fee and are not properly licensed, could be looking at fines of about $350, warn Niagara Regional Police.

"It's an offence under both the Highway Traffic Act as well as our regional bylaw to provide transportation of passengers for compensation without being licensed," said NRP Det. Sgt. Craig Labaune, of the licensing and bylaw enforcement unit.

"Normally, we would only charge under one or the other."

The bylaw regulates business operators and drivers of vehicles-for-hire such as cabs, tow trucks, limousines, sightseeing and shuttle vehicles, as well as horse-drawn caleche.

Last Thursday, Uber launched its peer-to-peer ride sbaring program in Niagara, Kingston and Windsor. Uber is now available in more than 40 communities in Ontario, and a growing list of more than 350 communities worldwide.

Also last Thursday, the licensing committee of the Niagara Police Services Board held its regular meeting, where Uber's launch was discussed. Committee members agreed Uber is in contravention of bylaws because it is not licensed to transport passengers.

NRP Supt. Scott McLean, head of emergency and investigative services, said police will enforce the bylaw.

If a driver is charged under the bylaw for not having the proper licence, a conviction could result in a fine of about $350, said Labaune. If someone is convicted under the Highway Traffic Act for picking up passengers for compensation without authority, the fine is $300, plus a $60 victim-impact surcharge.

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EDUCATION: Niagara Catholic District School Board

Pilgrimage 2015 raises $170,000 for international projects

WAYNE CAMPBELL
For Postmedia Network

Niagara Catholic school students and staff have raised a whopping $170,000 for developing nations by putting their best feet forward.

The annual pilgrimage walks supported by the eight Niagara Catholic District School Board high schools put about 4,000 students, staff, alumni and administrators on streets across Niagara Sunday, Oct. 25.

Sixteen students, two from each high school, last Tuesday night outlined their strolls to board trustees with short reports, props and a highlights video.

At Notre Dame College School, where the pilgrimage originated, it was the 40th anniversary of the Welland walk.

It drew 1,200 walkers from the school and feeder schools. They raised $40,000 for Development and Peace; Yancana Huasy in Lima, Peru; and the Dominican Canadian Community Development Group.

A letter from Sister Doreen Cloutier, who works in Haiti, spurred on more than 350 walkers from St. Francis Catholic Secondary School in St. Catharines. They raised $35,000 for an orphanage and school in Cap Haitian, Haiti.

St. Francis, Denis Morris and Holy Cross continued a tradition of meeting in St. Catharines' market square for a pilgrimage mass.

Denis Morris, in addition to raising $14,000 for Wells of Hope in Guatemala and a school in Haiti, collected canned goods for local food banks.

Holy Cross students heard about life in Haiti from Deacon Ron Angervil as they raised $14,000 for the work of the Holy Cross Brothers and Sisters in the West Indies nation.

In Niagara Falls, Saint Michael and Saint Paul stepped out together.

Saint Michael collected $19,000 for Hope for Rwanda's Children Fund and Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Saint Paul helped Immaculate Conception School in Milot, Haiti, walk off with $17,000.

Lakeshore Catholic in Port Colborne responded to a recent disaster in Portsmouth, Dominica. The school's annual Gator walk raised $10,000 to help the community hit by tropical storm Erika earlier this fall.

Meanwhile, 330 Blessed Trinity students and staff on the streets of Grimsby took in $16,000 for Las Pajas in the Dominican Republic.

Board chair Rev. Paul MacNeil praised the students from Pilgrimage 2015 for the connections they are making with the people they are helping.

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EDUCATION

DSBN trustees hear ideas for better grades

DON FRASER
Postmedia Network

Using school teaching coaches and doubling-down on math and literacy are areas of focus in a new District School Board of Niagara student achievement plan.

Trustees were given a run-down last Tuesday night on the annual board improvement plan for achievement for this school year.

They were also given a recap about mixed results for the latest Education Quality and Accountability Office provincewide test results for Grade 9 math. The assessments show what percentage of students have performed at or above the provincial standard.

In academic math, DSBN results last school year dipped three percentage points, but rose five over five years ago to 78 per cent, better than the provincial average during a four-year reporting period.

For applied math, the percentage meeting the standard went up one point to 45 per cent, up nine points over five years.

But the improvement plan also noted an 11-point plunge in junior-level EQAO board math scores over five years.

Meanwhile, literacy results in elementary DSBN schools jumped up sharply over that time, and notably in special education.

Secondary school results were also on an upward track over five years.

Superintendents John Dickson and Helen McGregor led the report discussion and touched on board efforts to boost results.

"We know math continues to be an area of priority, as it is throughout the province," McGregor told trustees. "Junior math continues to be an area of focus, and we'll continue to build our strategies to support student and staff learning."

A core of the plan is to improve EQAO and high school literacy scores, with the most ambitious a bump up in Grade 6 junior math scores by seven percentage points.

"Our strategy is based on targeted and responsive support for students and staff by school teams ... instructional coaches (and) other staff," said Dickson.

FUNDRAISING

Hotel Dieu Shaver launches Snowflakes and Angels campaign

KARENA WALTER
Postmedia Network

It's a place where Sherry Carson says she found empowerment.

As good as Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre was for her body, it's what they did for her mind that Carson wants people to know about.

"It really lifted my spirits because you're at home and watching your health go down," said Carson, who bas multiple sclerosis.

"People here show you what you can do, not what you can't do."

Carson was at the centre with her husband and sons Saturday night for the launch of its Snowflakes and Angels Christmas Campaign.

The fundraiser was held in the 5,700-square-foot therapy room, transformed into a twinkling courtyard for a reception-style event.

The Fort Erie woman first came to Hotel Dieu Shaver as an outpatient for six weeks, twice as week. She noticed a difference and checked herself in for a month in August as an inpatient. She said she leveraged her intestinal fortitude, using the standing machine and other equipment.

"But even better they helped me out with the six inches between my ears, which was the biggest hurdle," she said.

The centre, Carson said, is a place for people at the end of their rope. Staff work tirelessly with people at fragile points.

She explained sbe saw life around her and didn't feel connected, but at Hotel Dieu she did feel connected.

"I have value and worth and there's lots of support for people like me."

It was the 10th anniversary of the Snowflakes and Angels Campaign and the second year for An Evening in the Courtyard event.

Mary Jane Johnson, foundation executive director, said last year's campaign raised its goal of $65,000.

Tbis year's goal is slightly higher at $70,000. Money raised will go towards paying for a new, recently acquired nurse call system worth $412,000.

KARENA WALTER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Angel Karley Johnson, 3, gets her wings from mom Nicole Johnson for the launch of the annual Snowflakes and Angels Christmas Campaign for Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre. Her sister Maya Johnson, 7, was also one of the campaign's angels this year.

"It's bringing our call system into the 21st century," said Jennifer Hansen, interim director of nursing.

Hansen said the system allows nurses to see calls coming in from every patient bed and answer them in a timely fashion.

The old system had dead areas where nurses couldn't hear the calls and one hallway light per room which didn't show which patient in the room needed help.

The new system has different coloured flashes for different emergencies and special call bells for people who don't have the ability to push a button.

With 134 patient beds and one nurse to 15 patients overnight, the centre can see with the new system that its average response time is 1.3 minutes.

"It means a lot and staff were thrilled. It makes their jobs easier as well. No one wants to miss a call," Hansen said. "It's improving client satisfaction and staff satisfaction."

The Snowflakes and Angels fundraiser is part of Hotel Dieu Shaver's overall $1.2 million goal for the year. Other funds are raised through the Celebrity Ice Cup in February and through major gifts.

Hotel Dieu Shaver on Glenridge Road is the only rehabilitation hospital in the Niagara region and is an independent health system.

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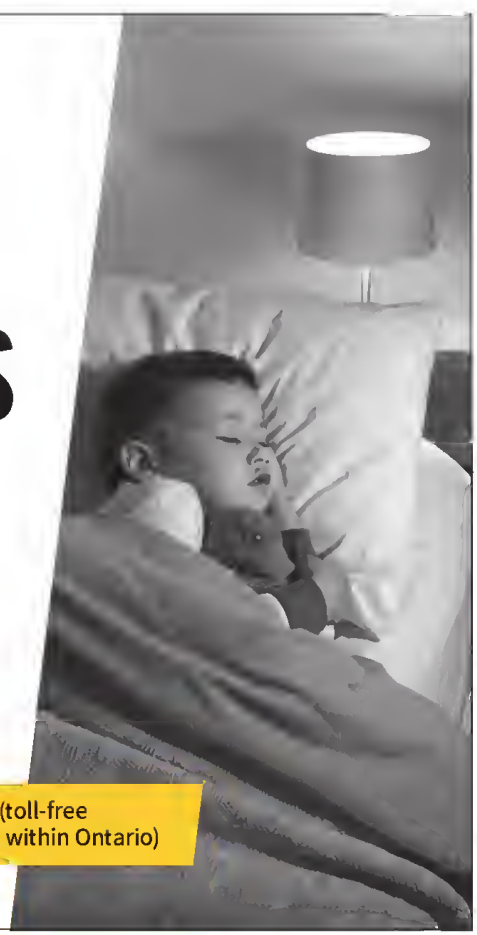

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■ HEALTH CARE

NHS radiology review enters final phase

Postmedia Network

Niagara Health System has double-checked nearly 4,200 patient scans — MRIs, CTs and mammograms — as it gets ready to complete a review of a radiologist's work.

Launched in June after a patient complained about a radiologist's erroneous interpretation of a scan, the review is expected be done by the end of the year.

It was originally expected to be completed by September, but NHS president Suzanne Johnston said the review has taken longer than anticipated because it's such a detailed and thorough process.

"We certainly understand that the quality review has been worrisome for some patients and families, and we would like to thank the community for its co-operation and understanding throughout this process," she said in an e-mail.

Johnston said the health system has taken immediate steps to contact doctors and families in cases where changes were needed to treatment plans or patient records. By now, patients or their doctors would already have been contacted about any urgent concerns.

A total of 4,195 exams conducted by the radiologist between May 2014 and May 2015 were reviewed to determine if a one-time error was made or if there was a series of mistakes.

The radiologist voluntarily stepped down from practising during the review. His or her identity has not been released by the NHS.

The health system is now completing administrative work and once that's done, an external radiologist will analyze the findings and prepare a final report.

Johnston said the report will be shared publicly.

In July, the NHS launched a new peer review system across all its hospital sites. Johnston said the new system brings an added level of "rigour" to its quality assurance processes.

Under the new process, radiologists review random samples of tests that have already been assessed by a peer radiologist.

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EDUCATION: Niagara College fall open house Nov. 21

Campuses opening doors to prospective students

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Niagara College is putting out its welcome mat.

On Saturday the Niagara-on-the-Lake and Welland campuses will hold open houses for an expected 1,000 visitors.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. people will have the chance to tour the campuses and residences, and talk to students and teachers. The tours will he conducted hy Niagara College experts, who are students chosen to share their experiences.

Classrooms and lahs will he open to showcase different technology and applications availahle to students. Visitors will have the opportunity to view kitchens culinary students use. And they will have the opportunity to see how students receive a hands-on education.

With more than 100 programs to choose from, visitors will learn ahout many of them. They can speak to students ahout their program experiences.

The campuses will have interactive displays to showcase the various academic and leisure activities offered. Culinary students will provide food samples. Engineering students will showcase some of the projects they have created. There will also he athletic displays for the different sports in which students can get involved.

"You can actually talk to the students and see some of the things they make and do in their program," says Dorita Pentesco, form the college's marketing and communications department.

For students coming from out of town there will he a community fair with some Niagara husinesses on display, including a hooth from Seaway Mall.

Prospective students will have the chance to speak to faculty ahout the application process. Information ahout financing will he available.

"The applications are open now, so the open house is so important hecause we know people are deciding and people want to know what Niagara College is all ahout and what is the educational experience here and what is the campus experience," says Pentesco.

michelle.allenberg@sunmedia.ca

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■ CRIME

Book by Bernardo no longer available on Amazon

The Canadian Press

A self-published fictional ebook purportedly written by notorious Canadian killer Paul Bernardo is no longer for sale on Amazon.

The online retailer did not immediately respond to an email asking whether it removed *A Mad World Order* from its site.

A web search did not turn up the 631 page fictional work that involved a plot to return Russia to a world power.

Bernardo is serving a life sentence for the brutal murders of Ontario teenagers Leslie Mahaffy and Kristen French in the early 1990s.

Word of the ebook provoked an angry reaction, with many customers posting on Amazon that they would no longer do business with the retail site as it was heading into the Christmas shopping season.

The Canadian Press could not confirm Bernardo is the author, but his lawyer told Global TV last week he was aware that his client was writing a book.

The Correctional Service of Canada said the book did not relate Bernardo's "specific" crimes, but it couldn't explain how it was published as federal inmates have no access to the Internet or e-mail.

Attempts to enter a weblink to the book on Amazon produced "We're sorry. The web address you entered is not a functioning page on our site."

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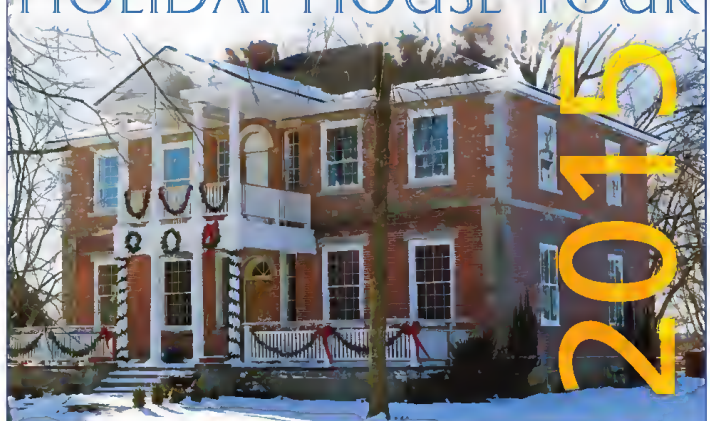

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'What if they don't like me anymore?'

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

The first time Noel Cousins said the words aloud, he cried.

The swelling of emotion caught the 17-year-old off guard as he stood in one of the many historic campus buildings steeped in tradition.

He knew life would change as the telling phrases spilled from his lips, but he never imagined how quickly he'd feel the massive weight he'd been carrying all his life begin to ease off his shoulders.

And that was during the practice run.

When the Ridley College senior took to the chapel lectern — this time with 484 sets of eyes staring back at him — he knew there was no turning back.

This was his moment of honesty.

The prefect, a leader in the school community, shared with the student body the news he had hidden for years, a truth he had only recently admitted to himself.

"I'm gay," he said matter-of-factly, before expressing a desire to open up a dialogue at the prestigious institution.

Cousins went on to speak about the limitless notion of love, fear of the misunderstood and the importance of being true to oneself, despite the challenges that may bring.

When the Prince Edward Island native concluded his speech, he was overwhelmed by the response.

The attentive audience within the packed chapel rose to its feet for a standing ovation and cheered with support for its brave peer.

It was a moment in time Cousins had been planning for months — one that was actually years in the making.

Since he was a child, he knew he was different, but encounters with homophobia forced him into a state of denial.

"To be around that, it made me feel the way my mind worked and the feelings I had were wrong, inappropriate or not acceptable," he said.

"It was hard. In a world where people are always striving to be perfect, it was that one thing you couldn't figure out how to fix on your own."

Cousins often felt isolated, and refused to share his true feelings with others for fear of being ostracized or attacked.

When he began school at Ridley in 2013, it was in some ways a fresh start.

"No one had any preconceived notions of who I was or who I could be," he said, calling it an "opportunity to explore myself and to come to terms with everything."

It was at the historic St. Catharines boarding school that Cousins learned the confidence to more openly be himself. It's also where he learned his sexual orientation does not define him as a person.

It was in May that the Grade 12 student took the first heart-stopping step, telling a friend his deepest truth. His parents soon followed.

In both cases, the news was received with open arms.

But opening up to the rest of the school was a different fear to tackle.

As a prefect, Cousins was one of about 18 students selected to give a speech in chapel meant to inspire his peers.

There was no question in his mind what the topic should be, but Cousins had reservations.

He worried that everyday interactions would turn awkward as a result. That greetings in the hallway would go silent. That life in residence would turn instantly uncomfortable.

"What if they don't like me anymore? What if they don't want to talk to me anymore because they know that I'm gay?" he recalled asking himself.

"High school in general is a really tough environment, because you're always worried about judgment."

While Ridley is both a "diverse and inclusive environment," Cousins had reservations and felt an added element of worry exposing himself in such a traditional setting.

But the speech deadline was looming and he knew the time had come.

"Now things are so much better," he said, adding he hasn't had any issues since his moment in the spotlight.

"I think five, 10 years ago the speech would have went totally differently and the reception would have been different," he said.

"There bave been a lot of really recent strides."

One big indicator of change was the creation of the school's Positive Space Group in 2014.

The group "provides a safe space for people who identify within the LGBTQ+ title, as well as their allies," said faculty adviser Gillian Fournier.

It's a means of support for Ridley's diverse school community, which includes students from more than 40 countries.

"We know statistically, chances are there are a lot of kids who identify that way here who are not open," Fournier said.

She feels Cousins' speech sends a powerful message of acceptance both of oneself and of others.

"For someone who's a leader to step out and say, 'That's me,' is incredibly important," she said, while crediting Cousins for choosing the venue he did.

Cousins, who grew up in a Roman Catholic household, has heard some criticism about whether the chapel was the appropriate backdrop for his speech.

"I can respect that," he said, though he stands by his decision, which was shown support by Ridley's interim chaplain Rev. Canon Kevin Bothwell.

"I feel like there's nothing in religion that says you shouldn't love other people just the way they are," Cousins said.

"The speech was meant to perpetuate the idea that everyone should be loved and deserves the right to love other people. I don't know how that can be construed in a negative light.

"I feel like that's what religion is — perpetuating love."

Cousins' speech drew tears to Cassandra Mitchell's eyes.

"I'll be honest, I cried. I maybe even sobbed," said the PSG member while recalling her response.

"I thought it was so, so brave. I'm so proud of him."

Mitchell is hopeful her friend's courageous move will inspire others to share their stories, or at least help them to understand there is a group of students ready to offer support.

"It's always so powerful when someone feels they have the courage to share what they're going through. There's no judgment here."

Mitchell has been with PSG since its inception and has been working to raise the profile of the group among her fellow students.

Dialogues have recently opened up about different LGBTQ+ terms and issues during PSG drop-in sessions, she said, adding it's a trend she suspects will only continue to grow.

Cousins said for people "in the closet" it may be difficult to associate with PSG.

"But knowing that it's there is something to look forward to. It's like, 'I'll be a part of that someday.'"

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■ **MUSIC:** Adam Buller releases first album

Riding the storm with Thunderclap!

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

In a fit of anxiety years ago, Adam Buller visited three psychics while living in New York.

The Chippawa-born performer wanted to know if he would "prosper" as an actor.

Yes, they said. But not as Adam Buller.

"They all basically said the same thing," he recalls. "We see you prospering under the name Yellow Feather, or Rolling Rock. Like an aboriginal name. I said, 'OK ... I don't know what that means.'"

He hadn't thought of those psychics until years later when he started a solo career after seven years with Niagara band The E-O Show Schematics. Instead of going with his name, he went with the moniker Thunderclap! And then it hit him.

"Only now, I look back ... thinking about what these psychics said," he recalls. "When you see a psychic, they're not going to give you the plan for your future. They're going to tell you some weird things, and you'll go, 'Well, that makes sense, and that doesn't make sense.'

"Only looking back in hindsight is it kind of humorous."

As he sips a cup of warm water at a Niagara Falls diner, Buller is trying to sum up the years of backbreaking work that went into Thunderclap!'s first album, *Hellbent on Success*. There's the IndieGogo campaign, the hundreds of murals he painted, the endless hours in the studio, the thousands upon thousands of dollars he poured into it. When it was finally released in October, he thought he'd feel euphoria that the hard part was over.

Turns out, it's just one mountain of many still to climb. Which is why his anxiety is kicking in again, trying to ruin what should be a joyous time in his life.

In many ways, Buller is the typical tortured artist, stressing over what he has to do, whether he's good enough, whether it'll ever be enough. Even this week, as he prepares for a CD release show in Toronto Thursday, he can't listen to his own music.

"It's the same reason why an actor can't watch himself on TV," he says. "It's like looking in a mirror. Imagine you looking into a mirror for an hour straight. It's unhealthy. You should not look in the mirror that long."

His recent funk is in stark contrast to his debut album, a sonic sampler of offbeat melodies and eccentric song writing in the spirit of Frank Zappa. It never follows the obvious path, and its art rock aspirations brings to mind another Niagara artist, Dale Morningstar, whose band Dinner is Ruined charted its own surreal landscape in the early 1990s.

Buller calls it a concept album, tracing his own doubts and insecurities on his way to establishing himself as an artist. He sums it up best on the fifth track, *The Hitmaker*: "On Monday and Wednesday and Friday I feel legit / On Tuesday and Thursday and Saturday I feel like a fraud and that I should quit."

The album ends with a flourish on *News Flash*, his call-to-arms to let artists find their own path instead of steering them into what's commercially viable.

"I've had different people try to manage me, and they would say, 'You've got to do this and that.' They were quite corrupt people. It would be totally against the foundation of Thunderclap. What I believe Thunderclap to be."

With help from guests Bob Wiseman (formerly of Blue Rodeo) and singer Mary Margaret O'Hara, the album is picking up steam on college radio stations and earning solid early reviews.

Hellbent on Success is available at www.thunderclap.ca.

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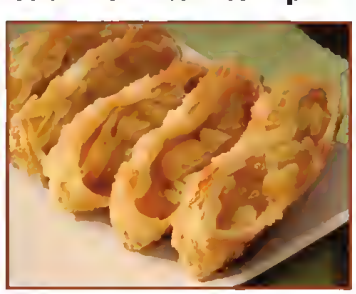

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■ ARTS

St. Catharines' arts centre opening draws large crowd

KARENA WALTER
Postmedia Network

Thousands of residents streamed through the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre Sunday afternoon for a glimpse of the new facility.

A five-hour public open house drew all ages to the $60-million building, with interested visitors arriving a half hour before the doors opened.

"It's really pretty. I especially like the Cairns Recital Hall," said Lyla Dierickse, a nine-year old St. Catharines girl with an eye for detail. "It's the combination of wood and stone and carpet."

She was leaving the Film Theatre and checking out the rest of the facility with mom Tina Hornick of St. Catharines.

"I love it. I think it's such an incredible investment for our community," said Hornick, who took in Fortunate Ones earlier this month in the Cairns venue.

Hornick said the downtown was alive after the concert with people not used to being out in that part of town. "It felt really vibrant," she said. "I'm really excited."

Many other residents were clearly excited to tour the facility, packing Partridge Hall while Niagara Sings! were performing to the point people had to be turned away by ushers for fire code reasons.

"It's been a zoo since before we opened," said Executive Director Steve Solski greeting people in a crowded Algoma Central Lobby. "Thousands of people came through the centre today. It's been a great open house. Everyone is thrilled with the venue."

The centre held a grand opening celebration Saturday night for donors, dignitaries and others who bought tickets for singer Serena Ryder's concert in the 781-seat Partridge Hall. Each patron was given a pair of scissors and asked to join dignitaries in cutting a 1,500-foot ribbon.

Solski said Saturday's ribbon cutting was the perfect way of celebrating with the community and Sunday's open house was a great way to end the weekend celebrations.

"You open the door and hope people come. And they've come, obviously."

Sara Palmieri, programming and marketing manager, said an estimated 8,000 people came though based on the number of programs picked up and people signing up for centre emails. Most people stayed 30 to 45 minutes.

For arts organizations who set up booths in the Algoma Central Lobby for the open house, having thousands of people interested in the arts touring the facility was a boost.

Juliet Dunn, who runs the TD Niagara Jazz Festival with husband Peter Shea, said they'd given out hundreds of programs Sunday.

"Ninety-five per cent had not been or hadn't heard of us, which means we really got the word out," she said. "This is the best direct marketing we've ever done."

Karen and John Reynolds of St. Catharines, subscribers to Niagara Symphony Orchestra for more than 30 years, were checking out the facility that has replaced Brock's site for performances.

Karen said she hoped the symphony would be able to fill Partridge Hall, which has more seats than Brock's theatre did. She also hoped parking would work out on days when there are hockey games downtown, something others touring the facility also mentioned Sunday.

"It looks great," she said, "And hopefully it's going to bring a positive to the downtown."

karena.walter@sunmedia.ca

FRANKI IKEMAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Chorus Niagara sings at the opening of the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre on Saturday.

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Do you know someone who is involved in worthwhile community service, is contributing while living with a limitation, has performed an heroic act, demonstrates individual excellence, or is going above and beyond to help others? If so, nominate them today!

Nominations are open until November 30, and nomination forms are available from this newspaper, and the Ontario Community Newspapers Association at www.ocna.org or 905-639-8720 ext. 4439.

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LOCALNEWS

■ THEATRE

Fiddler on the Roof returns to GCP

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Garden City Productions knows better than to meddle with the fiddle.

When it comes to the classic *Fiddler on the Roof*, modifications aren't needed. You don't modernize it. You don't overhaul it. A version you saw 30 or 40 years ago would be perfectly fine today.

That goes against the instincts of most theatre companies who are looking for ways to connect old shows to new audiences. But director John McHenry feels some shows are exempt.

So the *Fiddler on the Roof* which opens Friday won't be much different from previous GCP productions done in 1971, 1981 and 1999.

"No matter where you see it or where you do it, it's always basically the same," he says. "No one has ever put their twist on it, and I'm not doing it here.

"There's one scene that I'm doing a little different, but for the most part, you know, we're not doing it naked or (anything). When people go to see *Fiddler on the Roof*, they know what they're going to see."

What they'll be seeing is one of the most successful, longest-running Broadway shows ever. And perhaps one of the most surprising. Based on a series of stories by Yiddish author Sholem Aleichem, there were doubts the public would be interested in a show so steeped in Jewish culture when it opened in 1964. The story revolves around a poor Jewish milkman named Tevye whose daughter is unhappy with the man the village matchmaker has chosen for her to marry. With sinister forces threatening the community, Tevye must juggle cultural traditions with the love of his family.

"Even though it's a story set in 1905, there's so many universals in it," says veteran Niagara actor Paul Wintemute, who plays Tevye. Though he has auditioned for the show before, it's the first time he'll be doing it in his long stage career.

"The last time I auditioned, the guy who got it was a guy who was part of the *Phantom* cast for years. I kind of went, 'OK!'"

Co-star Kate Profijt-Fazio, who plays Tevye's stubborn wife Golde, is also diving into *Fiddler* for the first time.

WHAT: Fiddler on the Roof
WHERE: Mandeville Theatre – Ridley College; 2 Ridley Rd.; St. Catharines
WHEN: Nov. 20 to Dec. 6
TICKETS: $28 adults, $23 students/children. www.gcp.ca or 905-682-1353

"I mean, I've seen it many times. It's been on my list to be in it, and I've landed a good role. A really good role!"

Golde's "transition" during the story is what hooked her, especially when she chooses family over custom.

"There is emotion there, even though she doesn't always show it," she says. "There's something deeper there. Tevye wants to be more tradition, and I would probably break it at that point."

After crushing the box office and winning nine Tony Awards in 1965, the show became an equally successful movie in 1971. It won three Oscars and was the year's highest-grossing movie.

The Garden City show has a cast of 35, including several young singers Wintemute describes as "phenomenal."

john.law@sunmedia.ca

JOHN LAW / POSTMEDIA NETWORK

From left, Kate Profijt-Fazio (Golde), director John McHenry and Paul Wintemute (Tevye) are tuning up Fiddler on the Roof for Garden City Productions. It opens Nov. 20.

Construction of Underground Transmission Line Infrastructure Notice

For the Niagara Region Wind Project, FWRN LP

Project Name Niagara Region Wind Project (the "Project")

Project Location Within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario

Notice Dated At Haldimand County and Niagara Region, the 12th of November 2015.

Niagara Region Wind Corporation, now FWRN LP (the "Proponent"), are engaging in a renewable energy project for which a Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") was issued by the Ministry of the Environment (now the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) on November 21, 2014.

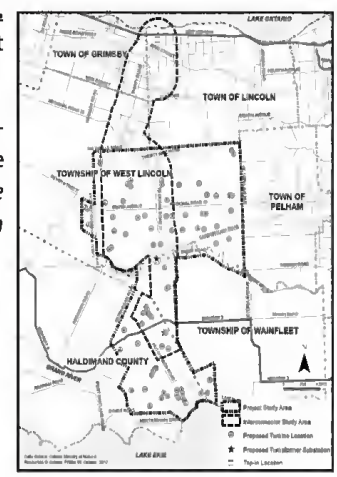
Project Description

The Project is located within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario. The Project will consist of 77 wind turbine generators, step-up transformer, electrical collector lines, a transmission line, two transformer substations, turbine access roads and construction staging areas. The Project will have a total maximum nameplate capacity of up to 230 MW.

Construction of Underground Transmission Line Infrastructure

Installation of underground transmission line infrastructure is expected to begin on December 1, 2015, starting just north of Walker Road and Philip to Mountainview Road to the interconnect (4720 Mountainview Road). Activities will include asphalt cutting and removal, trench excavation, conduit installation, concrete placement, vault installation, backfill, and compaction and road remediation. These activities are described in detail in the REA technical reports found on the Project website: **www.nrwf.ca.** Construction activities are expected to last approximately 16 months.

If you have any obstructions in the right-of-way near your property (e.g. fences, private gas lines, gardens, tiles, electrical lines), please contact Shiloh Berriman (contact information below).



Project Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns throughout the Project's construction phase, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

NIAGARA REGION WIND PROJECT CONTACT	GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION
Shiloh Berriman Email: shiloh.berriman@enercon.de Cell: 289-683-2563	General Number: 819-363-6491 Toll Free: 1-844-363-6491 Project email: info@nrwc.ca Project website: www.nrwf.ca

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THEATRE: FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre wooing next generation

PAC offers matinee series for youth

JOHN LAW
Postmedia Network

Today's theatre buffs will be well-served by the new FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, but Sara Palmieri also has her eye on the next generation.

The venue's programming and marketing manager remembers the impact of seeing live theatre for the first time as a kid. It's an experience she wants all Niagara youth to share with a series of matinees.

The ImPACt Series will consist of six shows which have special daytime performances to go along with the regular evening dates. It starts Nov. 24 with Essential Collective Theatre's mysterious new drama *Falling: A Wake*.

"What makes a performing arts centre viable in a community is not just what they're doing for the general public from a cultural entertainment perspective, but what we're doing to engage our youth," says Palmieri.

"This is just the start of our program for the youth."

Falling: A Wake will be performed Nov. 24 and 25 at 11 a.m.

"We're trying to find access points for all ages," says Palmieri, "and now that there's a great big shiny new venue in our downtown core, it's going to be even more accessible for our youth to come through."

Also helping is a $10,000 contribution from Freedom 55 Financial, allowing a $1-per-ticket subsidy for all student theatregoers. It will help subsidize tickets for financially struggling students.

Next year, Palmieri hopes to establish an outreach programs which allows artists to work with students before the performance.

"There are times we only get them one or two days in our community, so extending that — getting them into the schools doing workshops — will be something we'll be doing."

IMPACT SERIES

- Essential Collective Theatre's *Falling: A Wake* (Nov. 24 and 25, 11 a.m.)
- Edge of the Woods Theatre's *Ralph & Lina* (Dec. 2 and 3, noon)
- Ballet Jorgen's *The Nutcracker* (Dec. 8, 12:30 p.m.)
- Jamie Adkins' *Circus Incognitus* (Feb. 17, 12:30 p.m.)
- Childsplay Theatre's *Dr. Suess' Cat in the Hat* (March 1, 12:30 p.m.)
- Windmill Theatre of Australia's *Big Bad Wolf* (April 27, 12:30 p.m.)

Tickets for all ImPACt Series shows are on sale at www.firstontariopac.ca or by phoning 905-688-5601.

john.law@sunmedia.ca

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ENTERTAINMENT

Little Big Town heading to casino

Postmedia Network

Grammy-winning country group Little Big Town will make a rare local appearance when they play Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort in February.

The Bring It on Home, Pontoon and *Girl Crush* hitmakers will play the Avalon Ballroom Feb. 27 and 28, with tickets starting at $70. Still with its original lineup, the band weathered years of early indifference to become one of country's biggest acts of the last decade. At this year's Country Music Association Awards, they won single of the year and song of the year for *Girl Crush*. They're among the CMT artists of the year for a special to be televised Dec. 2.

A busy February at Fallsview will also see the return of Michael Bolton (Feb. 13 and 14) and a Feb. 12 visit from 1980s chart-topper Taylor Dayne *(Tell It To My Heart, Love Will Lead You Back)*.

Saturday Night Live alumni Jon Lovitz, Rob Schneider and Tim Meadows take the stage Feb. 26, while 1960s harmony pop group The Lettermen make a five-night stand Feb. 1 to 5.

Filling out February will be Sogno Italiano Feb. 6 and 7, and an extended run of Dancing Pros Live Feb. 18 to 25.

Tickets for all February shows are on sale at the Fallsview box office and www.ticketmaster.ca

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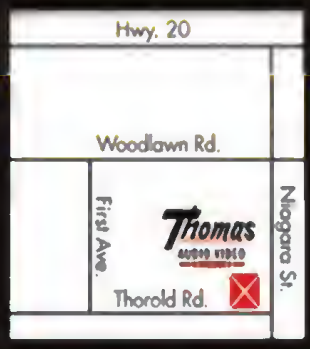

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Notice of Public Meeting

West Pelham Accommodation Review
E.W. Farr Memorial & Pelham Centre Public Schools

The DSBN is undertaking the West Pelham Accommodation Review which involves E.W. Farr Memorial and Pelham Centre Public Schools.

Community, public, and stakeholder consultation is important, and welcomed, during the accommodation review process. A public meeting is being held for you to learn more about the West Pelham Accommodation Review and for you to provide your comments and input.

Date/time: Thursday November 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
Location: E.W. Farr Memorial Public School, 9 Alsop Drive, Fenwick, ON, Gymnasium

www.dsbn.org/arc

DSBN

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 7P4
Phone: 905-641-1550 Website: www.dsbn.org

Construction of Collection Line Infrastructure Notice

For the Niagara Region Wind Project, FWRN LP

Project Name Niagara Region Wind Project (the "Project")

Project Location Within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario

Notice Dated At Haldimand County and Niagara Region, the 13th of November 2015.

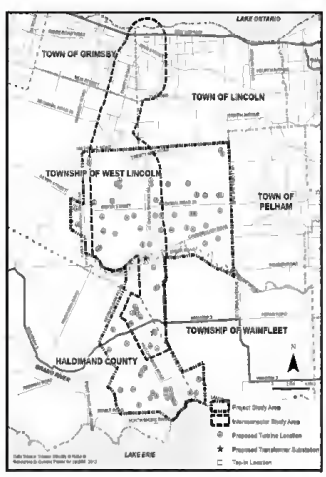
Niagara Region Wind Corporation, now FWRN LP (the "Proponent"), are engaging in a renewable energy project for which a Renewable Energy Approval ("REA") was issued by the Ministry of the Environment (now the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) on November 21, 2014.

Project Description
The Project is located within the Townships of West Lincoln and Wainfleet and the Town of Lincoln in the Niagara Region and Haldimand County in Southern Ontario. The Project will consist of 77 wind turbine generators, step-up transformer, electrical collector lines, a transmission line, two transformer substations, turbine access roads and construction staging areas. The Project will have a total maximum nameplate capacity of up to 230 MW.

Construction of Collector Line Infrastructure
Installation of collector line infrastructure is expected to begin on November 16, 2015, starting from Elcho Road (from Victoria Avenue to Concession #3), moving north to Twenty Mile Road. Activities will include: Trenching, plowing and boring. These activities are described in detail in the REA technical reports found on the Project website: **www.nrwf.ca.**

Construction activities are expected to last approximately 16 months.

If you have any obstructions in the right-of-way (e.g. fences, private gas lines, gardens, tiles, electrical lines), please contact Shiloh Berriman (contact information below).



Project Contact Information
If you have any questions or concerns throughout the Project's construction phase, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

NIAGARA REGION WIND PROJECT CONTACT	GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION
Shiloh Berriman Email: shiloh.berriman@enercon.de Cell: 289-683-2563	General Number: 819-363-6491 Toll Free: 1-844-363-6491 Project email: info@nrwc.ca Project website: www.nrwf.ca

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and all you have done for us.
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Your Love is still our guide.
Love always, Ed, Betty Ann,
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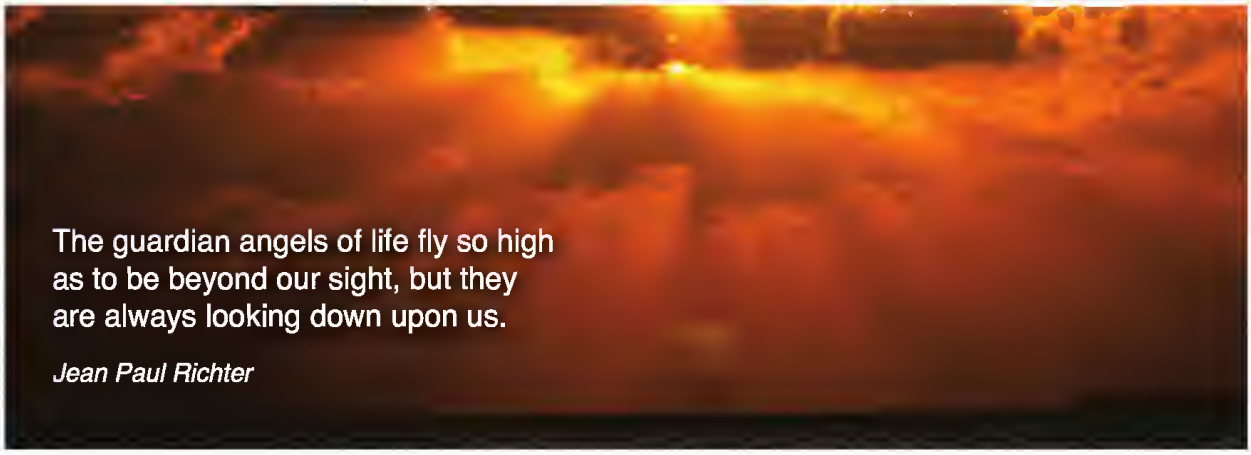

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